

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W
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R 091520Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6227
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 1109

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MZ
SUBJECT: ELECTORAL LAW APPROVED BY PROVISIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

1. SUMMARY. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MOZAMBIQUE PROVI-
SIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CONCLUDED SEPTEMBER 1 BY APPROVING
AN ELECTION LAW, WHICH CALLS FOR FORMATION OF PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLIES AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. SELECTION OF
DEPUTIES TO SERVE IN THESE ASSEMBLIES WILL TAKE PLACE OVER
THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ELECTORAL LAW WHICH HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED PROVIDES
THAT VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT MASS PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND
THAT CANDIDATE LISTS WILL BE SELECTED IN ADVANCE BY LOCAL
FREIMO PARTY ORGANIZATIONS. CANDIDATES ON THE PARTY LIST
WILL BE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC,
BUT WILL NOT FACE OPPOSITION.

3. MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST ELECTIONS UNDER THIS SYSTEM
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WILL START LATER THIS MONTH WITH SELECTION OF PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 25 AND
NOVEMBER 13 CITIZENS OF URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS, COMMUNAL FARMS
AND SOME LARGE PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT WILL MEET TO SELECT
BETWEEN 15 AND 35 DEPUTIES.

4. BY NOVEMBER 27, SIMILAR MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON

THE CITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT LEVEL TO RATIFY SLATES
OF BETWEEN 25 AND 80 MEMBERS FOR CITY AND DISTRICT
ASSEMBLIES.

5. BEFORE DECEMBER 4, EACH OF THE 10 PROVINCES OF
MOZAMBIQUE WILL CONVENE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ELECT PROVINCIAL
ASSEMBLIES OF 50 TO 80 MEMBERS. THESE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES
WILL THEN, BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 AND 4, MEET TO VOTE BY SECRET
BALLOT ON DEPUTIES TO THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, WHICH
WILL HAVE NO MORE THAN 230 MEMBERS.

6 THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
WILL THEN BE CALLED BY PRESIDENT MACHEL WITHIN 20 DAYS. THE
PRESIDENT WILL BE THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY, AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS
WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE MEMBERS.

7. TERM OF OFFICE ARE 5 YEARS AT THE NATIONAL AND PROVIN-
CIAL LEVELS AND TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AT LOWER LEVELS.
QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPUTIES AT ALL LEVELS INCLUDE DEDICATION
TO THE CAUSE OF THE WORKER-PEASANT ALLIANCE AND EXPERIENCE
IN POLITICAL MILITANCY. THE ONLY MOZAMBICANS INELIGIBLE
TO SERVE AS DEPUTIES ARE: THE PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED,
PEOPLE IN DETENTION AND ANYONE IDENTIFIED WITH COLONIALISM
OR IMPERIALISM.

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8. EACH HIGHER ASSEMBLY SUPERVISES SUBORDINATE ASSEMBLIES, AND CAN DISSOLVE THEM IF THE LOWER GROUP IS NOT PERFORMING AS MANDATED. DEPUTIES MAY ALSO BE REMOVED FOR MALFEASANCE, WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTING ONE PARTICULAR VILLAGE, REGION, RACE, TRIBE OR RELIGION.

9. THE ASSEMBLIES ARE DEEMED THE SUPREME ORGANS OF STATE AND THEIR DECISIONS ARE ENFORCEABLE BOTH ON CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. EACH ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE POWER TO PLAN, DIRECT, CHANGE AND OVERRULE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS, SPECIFICALLY IN THE SECTORS OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HOUSING. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT DIRECTIVES OF THE PARTY AND TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES TO SUPPORT DECISIONS OF THE PARTY AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

10. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH MUCH RHETORIC ABOUT ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE DEMOCRACY ACCOMPANIED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTIONS, THE LAW UNDER WHICH THEY WILL BE CONDUCTED KEEPS ALL STEPS UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FIRM CONTROL OF PRESENT FRELIMO LEADERS. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION OF THE MASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW ANY CHANGE IN POLICY INITIATED AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE ELECTION SYSTEM. ONCE NAMED, HOWEVER, THE ASSEMBLIES AT ALL LEVELS APPEAR TO HAVE EXTREMELY BROAD POWERS TO CARRY OUT AND OVERSEE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THEIR OWN AREAS.

11. PERHAPS THE MOST SURPRISING ASPECT OF THE LAW IS THAT THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES AND ELECTIONS PROMISED LAST FEBRUARY AT THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS ARE TAKING PLACE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. THEY HAD BEEN TARGETED FOR FEBRUARY 1978. MACHEL AND THE CURRENT FRELIMO LEADERSHIP CLEARLY FEEL THAT THERE IS LITTLE THREAT TO THEIR DOMINANT POSITION IN THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT FROM WITHIN, AND MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT PARTY ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IS SUFFICIENT TO TURN OUT LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS ON RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE.
CARSON

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